

In our Prayers this week

Collect for 2nd Sunday in Advent

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Prayer remembering the Blessed Virgin Mary

O Father, in our moments of weakness, we turn to Mary, our guiding star. Through her grace, may we find the strength to seek forgiveness for our transgressions. Cleanse our hearts and renew our spirits, that we may walk in Your light and extend mercy to others. Grant us the humility to embrace Your love and the courage to change. **Amen** (St Michael's Parish)



The Virgin Mary by Francisco Rizi, Prado museum

Those in acute need

Steven Armstrong
Judith Boyd
Sheila Carter
Nigel Grieve
Roger Merchant
Robin Price
George Rabbett-Smith
Annie Redmile

Sara Strong
Luke Valavanis
Adam
Daphne
George
Jean
Luke
Maria

Long-term need

Christopher Browne
Viv Robinson
Jono Robinson
Stefan Rogge
David Strong
Michael Turner

For those who have died recently

Orlando Ames-Lewis Monika Ahlström Barb Thurn
David Sherman Andreas Whittam Smith

and for all those whose anniversary of death falls at this time

David Wainwright, 8 December Jo Harriman, 8 December
Josephine Hamilton, 9 December Richard Lampting, 9 December
Ann Bradley, 11 December

The Parish and Vicarage offices are open from 10am – 5pm

St Mary Abbots Church Hall, Vicarage Gate, London, W8 4HN

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ST MARY ABBOTS PARISH CHURCH
KENSINGTON



Welcome to St Mary Abbots

Sunday 7th December 2025

The Church is open daily from 8.30am to 6pm and from 10am - 6pm on Saturdays and Bank Holidays

SUNDAY 7th December – 2nd Sunday of Advent

8 am **Holy Communion** (BCP)

9.30 am **Family Eucharist**
with Children's Nativity Play

11.15 am **Choral Matins**

5.30 pm **Taizé Eucharist**



MONDAY 8th December – Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8 am Morning Prayer and Bible Study on Zoom

9 am Parents' Prayer Group

12 noon **Informal Eucharist** (Sunday on Monday)

5.30 pm **No Evening Prayer**

6.30 pm **Missing People Carol Concert** – private

TUESDAY 9th December

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

12 noon **Holy Communion** (BCP)

2.30 pm **St James School Carol Service** – private

5.30 pm **No Evening Prayer**

WEDNESDAY 10th December

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

12 noon **Holy Eucharist**

5.30 pm **No Evening Prayer**

6.30 pm **The Mayor's Carol Service in aid of London's Air Ambulance** – tickets on door

THURSDAY 11th December

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

9.30 **School Eucharist** – all welcome

5.30 pm **No Evening Prayer**

7 pm **Selwyn College, Cambridge, London Carols** – private

FRIDAY 12th December

8 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

9.30 am Mini Abbots – final one this year

12 noon **Holy Eucharist**

1.05 pm **No Royal College of Music** – resumes 23 Jan

3.30 pm **FOSMAS Christmas Fair**

5.30 pm **No Evening Prayer**

SATURDAY 13th December – Lucy, Martyr

12 noon **Holy Communion** (BCP)

5.30 pm **No Evening Prayer**

SUNDAY 14th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent

8 am **Holy Communion** (BCP)

9.30 am **Parish Eucharist**

11.15 am **Choral Matins**

5.30 pm **Handel's Messiah (part 1)**

Tickets online and on the day at the gate.



Message from Father Evan

As we continue to anticipate the coming of Christ, both as a child at Christmas and as Judge of All at the end of time, let me encourage you to continue to live a life of joyful and watchful prayer. If you have not already begun to attend an extra service each week of Advent, as part of our Advent Challenge, or would like to do so but can't get away from work or home life, you might consider how to pray more meaningfully during the Advent season.



One way to pray differently is to participate in the **Travelling Nativity**. Thank you to those who have already signed up for a slot, however there are a few remaining dates in the week before Christmas. If you're going to be around and would like to have the Nativity stay in your home, please let me know. It is especially good to pray together as a family, or with others in the community, as you pick up or hand the crib on. The Nativity comes with prayers and a reading to help you do this.

As a church family, we give thanks for a very successful **Christmas Fair last weekend, sponsored by Riverstone**. If the excited screams coming from the Punch & Judy corner were any indication, everyone enjoyed themselves most heartily. With our volunteers looking after the church merch stalls, plants, bric-a-brac and cakes (and thank you for the many contributions towards these), the BBQ, the bar and children's area, we are so grateful for everyone who supported making the Fair a welcoming and well-organised afternoon. If you registered a guess in the 'Guess the number of sweets' contest, you may like to know that the correct number was 110.

Of all the events leading up to Christmas, **Handel's Messiah (part I)** is probably the most rich in telling the story of the nativity. G.F. Handel set to music a series of mostly Old Testament passages showing how the birth of Jesus was the fulfilment of prophetic revelation. As a child, my parents always put on the Messiah while we decorated our Christmas tree. I'm grateful to them because it helped me to commit to memory some of the most beautiful and Christ-centred verses from the Bible. The Messiah at St Mary Abbots probably isn't suitable for very small children but children ages 6 and up should be able to sit and enjoy the music (even if they have to resort to a book or colouring pages in the pew). Tickets are £15 for adults and include a glass of wine and a mince pie.

God of power and mercy, open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy, so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (from Some Prayers and Collects for Advent)

With love, Fr Evan

ST MARY ABBOTS PARISH CHURCH
KENSINGTON

Handel's Messiah

a concert by candlelight (Part I)
with our professional choir & The Purcell Players
at St Mary Abbots Church,
Kensington, W8 4LA

Sunday 14 December 2025
at 5.30 pm
Tickets £15
including glass of mulled wine
and a mince pie!

www.stmaryabbots.org.uk

As mentioned by Father Evan, tickets are available for Handel's Messiah (part 1) on the 'what is on' page of our website. The performance, by candlelight, sung by our professional choir and The Purcell Players. Tickets are £15 per person and include a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie. If you do not have access to a computer please let Leonora know and she will leave tickets on the door for you.

Churches Together in Kensington and Chelsea

Are looking for a volunteer to take over the role of secretary and treasurer or two people to do each role. Churches together is a national ecumenical organisation that supports and encourages churches from various traditions to work together in unity. This includes Anglican, Catholic, Pentecostal, charismatic, Orthodox, Lutheran, Free churches, Quakers and more. The roles would include arranging 3 or 4 meetings per year and the AGM and summer party which is usually held in our vicarage garden. If you would be interested in finding out more please contact Antony Aziz, frantonyaziz@gmail.com



Sunday 21st December

5.30 pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Wednesday 24th December, Christmas Eve

4 pm Children's Crib Service

11 pm Midnight Mass by Candlelight

Thursday 25th December, Christmas Day

8.00 am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.30 am Festal Eucharist *with our professional choir*

11.15 am Festal Matins *with our professional choir*

5.30 pm Christmas Eucharist at the Crib